



By the King.

**A Proclamation for the speedie sending away of
the Irish Beggars out of this Kingdome into their owne
Countrey, and for suppressing of English Rogues and
Vagabonds, according to Our Lawes.**



Hereas VVee haue beene lately informed, that notwithstanding Our former Proclamations, great numbers of Irish Beggars, and Vagrants doe still swarme in this Our Kingdome of England, but especially in Our Countie of Somerset, and some other Westerne parts, wandring by and downe, many of them hauing false and counterfeit Passports, and so liue by begging, and other vnlawfull meanes, to the great oppression, annoyance, and euill example of Our louing Subjects, and contrarie to the good and wholesome

Lawes of this Realme, which were enacted with great wisdom and prouidence, aswell for reliefe of the truly poore, and indigent, as for the due punishment of sturdy Rogues, and Vagabonds. For the reforming therefore of so great a mischiefe, and to prevent the many dangers which may ensue by the neglect thereof, we by the aduice of Our Prīue Counsell, and of Our Judges, doe straightly charge and command, that all the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme heretofore made, and now standing in force for the punishment of Rogues, and Vagabonds, be duly put in execution in euery part thereof.

And more particularly, we doe expressly charge and command, that all Irish Beggars, which now are in any parts of this Kingdome wandring, or begging, vnder what pretence soener, shall forthwith depart this Realme, and returne into their owne Countrey, and there abide: and if any Irish man, or woman, shall after the end of fortie dayes to be accounted from the date hereof, be found wandring, or begging; That then he, or she, shall be apprehended, vled, ordered, and punished as Rogues, and Vagabonds ought to be, by the Lawes of this Realme, and then shall be conueyed from Constable, to Constable, vnto one of Our Ports of Bristol, Wyndhead, Barstable, Chester, Limerpoole, Milford-Hauen, or Workington, or any other Port, as shall be most conuenient for the passage of them into Ireland.

And if the number of those Irish in any one company shall grow too great to be so conueighed by Constables, that then they be conueighed from Sherife to Sherife, vnto one of the Ports aforesaid, or to any other Port more necessary for their transportation.

And wee doe straightly charge and command, That no person after the end of the said forty

dayes, doe in any wise relieue those Irish Beggars, or any of them which shall so wander or beg, and shall not apply themselves to be transported as aforesaid.

And wee doe further charge and command, That at those Ports they be shipped at the charge of that County and Port respectively, those Ports hauing beene the cause of this disorder and grievance to Our Subjects, by permitting them to be there landed contrary to Our Lawes, And that from thence with the next wind, and conuenient meanes, they be transported and set on land on some part of Our Kingdome of Ireland, there to be disposed of according to the Lawes of that Kingdome.

And that from henceforth no man be so hardy, as to conuey or bring into this Realme any Irish person from that Kingdome, being, or likely to be a begger here, nor that any such be suffered to land in any Port of this Realme, vpon paine of such forfeitures and penalties, as by the Lawes of this Kingdome or that Kingdome, may be inflicted vpon them for the same, and vpon such further paines and punishments, as we by Our Prerogative Royall may inflict, or impose vpon them. And if notwithstanding any such Irish shall hereafter be transported from thence hither, that vpon true inquirie made at what Port or place they were landed, they shall with all speed be sent backe thither, to be transported backe againe at the charge of that Towne where they were so landed.

And wee doe straightly charge and command all Sherifes, Maiors, Iustices of Peace, Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, and all other Our Officers, Ministers, and louing Subjects, that they and euery of them in their severall places, doe their best indenuors to obserue and performe Our Command in this behalfe.

And wee doe also straightly charge and command, that if any borne within this Realme, shall hereafter wander and begge in this Kingdome, as Souldiers or Bariners, that they be forthwith apprehended and committed to the common Gaole of that Countie, where they shall be proceeded against as Felons, according to the Lawes.

And lastly, we doe hereby straightly charge and command all Sheriffes, Maiors, Iustices of Peace, Constables, Headboroughes, Tything men, and all other Our Officers, Ministers and Subjects, whom it may concerne, That they vse all care and diligence to execute Our Lawes, against all Rogues, and Vagabonds in that behalfe made and prouided, and now standing in force, as they will answer the neglect thereof at their vttermost perils.

And that Our Iustices of Peace of each Countie, doe vse their best endenuors to enquire out and punish all such neglects and offences, And at euery Assizes to be held for that Countie, doe giue an exact and true Account to Our Iustices of Assize for that Countie, how and in what manner they haue obserued the same.

Giuen at Our Court at White-Hall, this twelfth day of February, in the ninth yeere of Our Raigne of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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